



News Release

Office of the Louisiana State Fire Marshal
8181 Independence Blvd.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.lasfm.org

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CONTACT: MARSHAL BUTCH BROWNING
225-925-4911
1-800-256-5452
225-806-0803 (cell)

Early Morning Fire Claims the Life of Evangeline Parish Man

Ville Platte, LA- The Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office has released information in reference to an early morning residential fire that claimed the life of one person.

The Ville Platte Fire Department was dispatched shortly after 1:00 am this morning to 223 East Wilson Street to a report that a mobile home was on fire. When firefighters arrived they discovered that the entire home was in flames and they were unable to safely enter the mobile home. As they extinguished the fire they found the body of Andrew Garlow (dob. 8-18-1933) in the home. He was pronounced dead at the scene by the Evangeline Parish Coroner.

The State Fire Marshal's Office was called to investigate this fire and tragic death. Fire Marshal Deputies are actively working to determine the cause of the fire and at this point have no indications that the fire is suspicious. Deputies are ruling out accidental causes and are examining an electric space heater that was in use at the time of the fire. More testing will be conducted over the next few days. There were no working smoke alarms in the home.

State Fire Marshal H. "Butch" Browning stated, "We recorded cold temperatures this morning, this raises concerns as to the safe use of heating devices so to prevent catastrophic fires. Remember when using space heaters you must keep a five foot area around it that is clear of anything that will burn; finally, ensure your home has working smoke alarms".

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